

REMARKS

Applicants submit that by the present Amendment and Remarks, this Application is placed in clear condition for immediate allowance. Specifically, the present Amendment incorporates the limitations from claims 3 and 4 (claim 4 having been indicated allowable) into independent claim 1, which is the only independent claim subject to rejection. The remaining claim amendments address formalistic issues. Applicants, therefore, submit that the present Amendment does not generate any new matter issue or any new issue for that matter, and clearly places the Application in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, entry of the present Amendment and Remarks, and favorable consideration, are respectfully solicited pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Claim Objections.

The Examiner objected to claims 1, 14 and 15 identifying perceived antecedent basis and multiple dependency issues.

In response, claims 1, 14 and 15 have been amended to address the issues identified by the Examiner, thereby overcoming the stated bases for the claim objections. Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim objections is solicited.

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness predicated upon Arvanitakis et al.

This rejection is traversed. Indeed, this rejection has been rendered moot by incorporating limitations from claim 3 and claim 4, claim 4 having been indicated allowable, into

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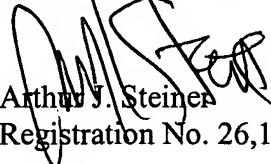
claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness predicated upon Arvanitakis et al. is solicited.

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claims 1, 4, 7 and 9 through 15 contain allowable subject matter. As previously pointed out, by the present Amendment, the limitations of claims 3 and 4 have been incorporated into claim 1, claims 3 and 4 cancelled and claim 7 made dependent upon claim 1. In addition, claims 9 and 14 have been rewritten to avoid the multiple dependency issue raised by the Examiner, and the antecedent basis issue identified by the Examiner corrected in claim 15. Accordingly, by the present Amendment, the imposed objection and rejection have been overcome, and all pending claims are now in condition for immediate allowance. Favorable consideration is, therefore, solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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